

Judgment Fund to hold community info meeting

Dustin Gray
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The Seminole Nation Judgment Fund Office will be holding a public question and answer session regarding proposed changes to the Clothing Assistance Program at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at the Mekusukye Mission Council House.

The Trust Fund Management Board will be on hand to update tribal members on the current status of the Clothing Assistance Program and present proposed amendments, like Tribal Ordinance 2013-02, and possible options to extend the life of the program.

All tribal members are urged to attend this important public information meeting.

For more information, please contact the Seminole Nation Judgment Fund Office at (405) 382-0559.

SC mission group helps renovate local Indian churches

Joe Clay
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Reaching Our World's Kids, also known as ROW Kids, recently visited the Seminole Nation on a mission trip, bringing 65 youth and adults from Hilton Head, S.C., Duncan, Okla. and Prue, Okla. to help clean up shrubs, paint and remove camp houses at several local Native American Churches from March 17 - 22, 2013.

ROW Kids is a group that focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty. They focus on children by providing educational opportunities to better their lives and their families. ROW Kids impacts 30,000 kids annually in 5 countries.

The mission trip had been a vision of Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo and ROW Kids for over a year and a half.

John & Sue Eve are the founders of Row Kids, which started 10 see [ROW](#) on page 2



Joe Clay, Seminole Nation Communications

Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo speaks to tribal members during a BCR Land Research Project informational meeting held Saturday, February 16, 2013 at Seminole State College's Tanner Hall.

Land research team completes first phase of BCR project, looks forward to phase two

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The Seminole Nation General Council will analyze the findings of the Seminole Indian Country Land Research Project and have the opportunity to appropriate funding for the second phase of the project at the next council meeting, scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2013.

"We're really hoping that the General Council is going to take full advantage of all of this information," said Business and Corporate Regulatory Commission Executive Director Ted Underwood. "We were doing [the land research study] in the hopes that the tribe would begin to exercise its governmental authority, because as a sovereign nation, we can pass laws that would preserve much of what it is that we're identifying."

Seminole Nation BCR Commissioners, General Council Representatives, Band Chiefs and other tribal citizens gathered at Seminole State College's Tanner Hall on Saturday, February 16, 2013 to discuss phase one of the Seminole Indian Country Land Research Project, and the next steps in the long process of identifying tribal lands and resources. "This project is a very important one," said Underwood at the Feb. 16 meeting. "It's necessary for the tribe to analyze and assess exactly where we're at today."

The BCR first expressed the need to undertake a large-scale land research project at a June

2011 community workshop entitled "Tribal Regulation of Tribal Resources."

Consensus at that community meeting led to the drafting of Tribal Resolution 2011-137, which provided FY 2012 funding for the Seminole Indian Country Land Research Project.

The objectives of the land research project are to identify and inventory all of Seminole Indian Country, including all trust and restricted properties owned by the Seminole Nation and its tribal members; assess the Seminole Nation's geographic area and the natural resources contained within its boundaries; protect and preserve Seminole Indian Country; and to expand the tribe's sovereignty through the adoption of tribal ordinances regulating the activities and natural resources within Seminole Indian Country.

Phase one of the project built upon an initial land research study conducted by the BCR in 1990 for law enforcement purposes. The original project also included the mapping and cataloging of tribal cemeteries and old ceremonial sites for future protection under the Native Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, as well as the mapping and cataloging of housing projects, railroads, traditional churches and other Seminole Indian sites. Maps detailing the findings of the 1990 study were distributed to the Lighthorse Police Department, local Bureau of Indian Affairs Agency and the Seminole Nation Transportation Department.

For the renewed Seminole In-

dian Country Land Research Project a team of researchers appointed by the BCR delved much deeper into the identification of Seminole land holdings, as protection and regulation of natural resources has become vitally important.

Tribal regulation of natural resources is an important expression of tribal sovereignty and is expected to lead to increased economic development, tribal services and employment opportunities. It will also protect the rights of Seminole tribal members.

With the funding appropriated by the General Council, the BCR has been able to wrap up the first phase of the land research project, which included a comprehensive study of restricted service lands. The BCR's team of researchers compiled a record of current land holdings and copies of transactions such as title changes, leasing agreements, determinations of heirs and any other legal actions pertaining to the holdings.

Researchers traced land holdings all the way back to allotment, and also identified land transactions in which mineral

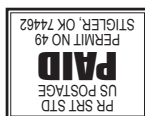
rights were retained. They are currently in the process of tracking oil and gas production on each property.

It's a daunting task, and Underwood said that he has seen more than 2,000 documents on file for just one tract of property.

"What we tried to focus on in phase one was developing a database – a list of what needed to be researched – and then actually compiling that research," explained project researcher Danielle Atkinson. "We're about 98 per cent done with that. There are some loose ends that we have to tie up, but other than that, the majority of the project is done, as far as knowing what the Seminole Nation owns and researching that land and how it became the Seminole Nation's land to begin with."

"Phase two will be more about developing that data and all the various ways that it can be used to help the tribe," she added.

Findings from phase one of the land research project indicate that, historically, tribal members have had little protection from the wrongdoing of non-Indians see [land](#) on page 12





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Executive Office

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PANTHER CLAN - TUSEXIA HARJO BAND





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Joe Clay, Seminole Nation Communications

ROW Kids students help to paint a local Native American Church on Tuesday, March 9, 2013.

ROW

continued from front page

years ago.

“I think what excites me the most, is the way the Seminole people have opened their arms and their hearts to us and invited us to share with them,” said John Eve. “I can’t wait to see what’s going to come from this. I think God has big plans for the Seminole people, and we’re excited to be a small part of it.”

“Our hope is to continue working with the Seminole people,” said John Eve.

ROW Kids came prepared to help however they could. Each day they would show up at a church to scrap and paint. They cut shrubs from fences and also did some demolition on old camp houses.

Most of the students on the trip were middle school and high school age, and it was their first time on a mission trip, where they had the opportunity to travel to another place and get to serve other people.

“I was happy to work. It was a great experience,” said Zia Mara, 16, of S.C. “I’m going to remember learning *Mvto* for ‘thank you’, and I will remember how welcoming everyone was.”

“I was excited we got to do something for the Seminole people,” said Camryn McCarter, 13, of S.C.

On Sunday, March 17 when ROW Kids arrived, the youth minister from Duncan, Okla. William Moore, spoke to the group and told them about his experiences on mission trips. He told the group that they would probably be presented with new things and also introduced to new foods.

One of the group’s favorite experiences happened on Monday, March 18, when most of them had the opportunity to try Indian tacos for the first time.

“They were best tacos I ever had. I’m going to look up the recipe and make them for my family,” said Mara.

“My favorite moment from this week was when I got help make Indian tacos. They were very good and delicious,” said Mc-

Carter.

Most of the students were on spring break. Some were not, but they took time off from school to be involved with the mission trip.

Seminole Nation Assistant Chief Ella Colman spoke to the group on their last night with the tribe, telling the students that the Seminole people appreciated what they had done.

“Thank you to each and every one of you that has sacrificed your school time to help us here in Seminole country. I know that this has been a very memorable moment for our tribal members that have had you on their church grounds,” said Colman. “They deeply appreciate everything you have done for them, and we at the Seminole Nation appreciate everything that you have done.”

She told the students that through the work they were doing, they were learning to become servant leaders. She also complimented their team leaders for being an example to their students.

“We just wanted to acknowledge each and every one of you,” she said. “You are all very welcome to come back, we extend an invitation to you.”

Seminole Nation Program Management Analyst A.J. Foster worked with the ROW kids group each day. He told the group they have impacted many lives and people they didn’t know they were going to impact.

“All week you guys have been working; I heard no complaining,” said Foster. “The Seminole people will be talking about this for years to come.”

“We do hope to see you guys back,” he added.

ROW Kids has plans to come back to work on more churches. They are also hoping to work with the Seminole Nation youth in the future.

The Seminole Nation was very thankful for the amazing love and support that ROW Kids shared with the tribal community.

Corrections & Addenda

The Seminole Nation Communications Department staff mistakenly reported that Tribal Ordinance 2012-03 – a tribal ordinance of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma amending Title 15, the Seminole Nation Public Gaming Act of 2011 – passed by a measure of 24-4-0 at a March 2, 2013 General Council Meeting. In fact, Tribal Ordinance 2013-03 was tabled by a vote of 24-4-0. The *Cokv Tvlvme* regrets the error.



Clayton Bennett appointed to NACEA Board

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma City business executive Clayton I. Bennett has accepted an appointment to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Native American Cultural and Education Authority, a state agency established to oversee The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum located on the Oklahoma River, east of downtown Oklahoma City. The Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, T.W. Shannon, appointed Bennett to fill one of the four business community seats on the 17-member Board of Directors.

“I am pleased and grateful to Clay for his willingness to serve on this board,” Speaker Shannon noted. “He is an accomplished executive who has earned the respect and admiration of people across the country for his leadership, integrity, insightfulness and business acumen. Clay’s deep strategic and financial experience in building and sustaining business enterprises will serve him well as a member of the Board. He joins the Board at a critical time in the history of the project. I have no doubt the Board and the organization will benefit immeasurably from his strengths and perspective as a successful business executive.”

The Chairman of the NACEA Board, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby, welcomed Bennett’s appointment expressing confidence his financial and operational experience will serve the Board well as it pursues completion of The Center.

“Clay is a timely addition to the Board given the opportunities ahead of us,” Governor Anoatubby said. “He will bring fresh insights and perspective as we consider embarking upon a realistic and reasoned path to position The Center for sustainable success.”

“I am honored to join the Board of Directors responsible for completing The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum,” Bennett said. “The mission behind the creation of The Center to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation for the important contribution of the American Indian culture to our state and country is one I completely support. I look forward to working with my fellow board members to complete The Center in an efficient, timely, financially sound and prudent manner.”

Bennett is Chairman of the Professional Basketball Club L.L.C., the ownership group of the NBA basketball franchise, the Oklahoma City Thunder. He is also Chairman of Dorchester Capital, a diversified private investment company and serves as an investor, officer and director of numerous business entities. He served for 14 years as Chairman of the Oklahoma State Fair and is the Chairman Emeritus of the Oklahoma Heritage Association. He was appointed to the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma in March of 2011.

About the NACEA

The Oklahoma Legislature created the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority, (NACEA) to oversee the construction and operations of The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum for the purpose of generating awareness, understanding and appreciation of the history of tribes and their relationship to Oklahoma today. The 150,000-square foot Center on 240 acres at the crossroads of Interstates 35 and 40, two of the busiest highways in the country, will serve as a living and interactive historical and cultural center exploring Oklahoma American Indian cultures and heritage.

Kimberly Rodriguez, NACEA

Construction on the American Indian Cultural Center and Musuem in Oklahoma City (left) was suspended on July 1, 2012.

tribal court

FVTCECKV



Why a Tribal Court?

Gregory H. Bigler
District Court Judge
Seminole Nation Tribal Court System

OK, so now the Seminole Nation has a Tribal Court, just what does that mean? Are we different from state courts? To get some answers to this question we can look at how the practice of law in tribal court differs from state and federal court practice. Tribal law and Indian law are generally used to refer to two related but separate fields.

Tribal law means the law of an individual Indian tribe or nation, whether adopted by code, resolution or regulation or derived historically from its common law, more often referred to as Tribal custom.

Indian law, which will wait until a later article, refers to the cases, statutory or regulatory law by the federal, or state, governments as it impacts Indian nations.

Thus for the most part what we deal with in Seminole court is Tribal Law.

Many of the people who have cases in the Seminole Court do not have attorneys representing them, though the percentage of parties having attorney representation continues to increase. Regardless, it is helpful to understand what is expected of the attorneys that appear in tribal court as it helps us better understand the Seminole court.

While Oklahoma's rules and laws are not binding within the Seminole Court, it is helpful to look at Oklahoma law. The Oklahoma Supreme Court has promulgated Rules of Professional Conduct that lay out the basic ethical standards for Oklahoma attorneys for their legal representation in Oklahoma courts. Oklahoma Rules of Professional Conduct are mandatory, meaning that violation of such standards constitutes grounds for disciplinary action up to and including losing one's license to practice law. In the Rules' Preamble it states "A lawyer is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice." the Rules go on: "As a

representative of clients, a lawyer performs various functions. As advisor, a lawyer provides a client with an informed understanding of the client's legal rights and obligations and explains their practical implications. As advocate, a lawyer zealously asserts the client's position under the rules of the adversary system. As negotiator, a lawyer seeks a result advantageous to the client but consistent with requirements of honest dealing with others. As an evaluator, a lawyer acts as evaluator by examining a client's legal affairs and reporting about them to the client or to others."

As can be seen from the Professional Rules, a lawyer owes a duty to several different groups, though a duty in different ways. These include not only the attorney's clients, but also to the court and to other lawyers. A client is to be protected and advocated for, but what of the court the attorney appears before? This is not a restriction of an attorney being an adversary but a recognition, in the Seminole courts, of the tribal court's (or Nation's) existence, heritage and jurisprudence. Criminal lawyers in state or federal courts oppose the Attorney General or District Attorney by cross-examining witnesses, challenging evidence and making legal arguments. But some of the defense attorney's legal arguments flow from historical development based on Anglo-American law and experiences and assume that the advocate believes in an ideal of American Justice. So too tribal law flows from unique circumstances of the Indian Nations.

Is Tribal Court different than State/Federal Court?

There are two basic areas that define the nature of a court, whether it is state, federal or a tribal court.

First is the "procedure" or laws the court utilizes including civil procedure (the rules of how a case is filed and proceeds), corporations, custody/family law, contracts, administrative law, and prior decisions or common law. Some of the Seminole Na-

tion's laws are modeled on state or federal laws, but many are not. In particular, tribal common law comes from what we refer to as tribal traditions.

Second is what we call "practice." State and Federal courts often have a different style or feel. Within the state court there is a difference between rural and big city courts. Tulsa or Oklahoma City court practice is different than smaller rural county practice. These differences may include the level of formality, and caseload (meaning how busy the court is).

Combined procedure and practice goes to history and customs. American history shapes American courts; the civil rights; sweat shops; free enterprise; labor relations – unions; and Western mythology all go to shape what those courts believe and use to interpret what they see and hear in court.

Indian tribes, the Seminole Nation included, are the same in that we are shaped by our history, beliefs and customs and we should expect no less nor apologize for representing the tribal community and culture from which we come. The past shapes our society and thus our courts. This does not affect every case directly, there are only so many ways one can interpret a case over a contract dispute, but it can shade and shape how we interpret our laws and many cases.

Who are the people in the tribal systems and what perspectives are brought by them?

Judges. People drive any system or branch of government, especially tribal courts such as the Seminole courts where we only have three trial judges and three Supreme Court justices. The Seminole judges are all lawyers. Each of the Seminole judges believes in tribal sovereignty, however that is defined. The judges all have a tribal background and have varying levels of familiarity with Seminole customs, and we all realize their importance. In general, tribal judges have a legal approach to tribal status, see **Bigler** on **page 4**



Aliasson named first president of Seminole Nation Bar Association

SEMINOLE, Okla. – Jeremy Aliasson was recently selected to serve as the first president of the newly established Seminole Nation Bar Association.

Aliasson is a member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. He grew up in Oklahoma City and is a member of the Nurcup Harjo band. Aliasson is a 1996 graduate of the University of Oklahoma and a 2001 graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School. He has practiced Indian Law since graduating from law school.

In addition to practicing law, Aliasson has also served as an adjunct professor and Indian Law Program coordinator in Portland, Ore. He has represented several tribes and individuals throughout Indian Country.

Aliasson returned home in the summer of 2010 to serve as the First Executive Director of the National Native American Bar Association. In December 2012 he decided to open his own prac-

tice specializing in Indian Law and non-profit organizations, while maintaining a general civil practice based in Oklahoma City.

Aliasson is the grandson of the late Susie Albert and the late Freeland Carpitcher. He is married to Dr. Inger Powell Aliasson, a pediatric anesthesiologist at OU Children's Hospital. They have two daughters Ruby, 10, and Elena, 7.

Aliasson is very proud of his heritage and committed to the empowerment of Native people. He serves on the Board of Directors for College Horizons, a program dedicated to helping Native Americans go to college and graduate school.

Aliasson is looking forward to serving as the President of the Seminole Nation's Bar Association. He hopes to help it grow and protect the sovereignty of the Seminole Nation and its Tribal Courts.

Spotlight SN Probation Department

The Probation Department works closely with the Judges and the Attorney General in finding alternative, positive options rather than incarceration.

The purpose of probation is to reform and rehabilitate the offender so that they will be able to live within their community without violating the standards that are established by the community.

The Probation Department's purpose is to enhance the safety of the community by reducing the incidence of criminal acts by a person previously convicted of a crime. This goal is achieved through many different areas, such as counseling, guidance, assistance, surveillance and restraint of offenders to enable

them back into society as a law abiding and productive member of the community.

The Probation Department also keeps a close relationship with the Seminole Nation Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention, Indian Child Welfare, Social Services and Domestic Violence programs in an effort to give the defendants, as well as any Seminole tribal member, the best opportunity to succeed.

Officer Tim Gentry serves the Seminole Nation Tribal Court System as probation officer.

For more information about the Probation Department, please contact the Seminole Nation Tribal Court System at (405) 303-2251.

announcements

NAK-OK KER KUECETV

Birthdays

- April 1 Nikole Wheeler
- April 1 Kevin Roberts-Fields
- April 3 Mickey Conley
- April 4 Sam Wheeler
- April 5 Joshua Brown
- April 6 Sandra Cloud
- April 7 Shawn Williams
- April 7 Jeremiah Maylen
- April 8 Abraham Farani
- April 8 Annie Shaw
- April 9 Crystal Yargee
- April 10 Vivian Trejo
- April 10 LouAnn Davis
- April 10 Rhoda Harrison
- April 11 Tanya Jackson-White
- April 11 Leslie Joshua
- April 11 Dion Douglas
- April 12 Josie Fields
- April 12 Luretta Hornsby
- April 13 Jahleel Newman
- April 13 Timmie Sullivan, Jr.
- April 13 Nellie Tiger
- April 14 Culv Jones
- April 14 Jerry McKane
- April 14 Monica Williams
- April 14 Dennis Fish
- April 16 Courtney Hobia
- April 16 Andy Davis
- April 16 Miles Martin
- April 17 Charles Lawrence
- April 17 Bree Harjo
- April 18 Matthew L. Harjo
- April 19 Jeanine Wheeler
- April 19 Mary Hause
- April 19 Augusta West
- April 19 Billie Lester, Sr.
- April 20 Max Hause
- April 20 Rhonda Shaw
- April 20 Curtis Douglas
- April 22 Joyce Cully
- April 23 Trenton Lee Harjo
- April 23 April Harjo
- April 23 Darrell G. Harjo
- April 23 Tommie Ann Burden
- April 24 Teresa Jackson
- April 25 Eric Walker
- April 25 Glynn Cornelius
- April 25 Stefan Harjo
- April 25 Darla Newbold
- April 26 Eskv Roberts-Fields
- April 26 Clarice Wise Talamasy
- April 26 Whitney Jackson
- April 26 Jeremy Eades
- April 27 James Cornelius
- April 27 Patricia Coker
- April 28 Summer Cornelius
- April 29 Brett Deatherage
- April 29 Joyce Cully
- April 29 Judy Davis
- April 30 Bobbie Poindexter
- April 30 Jessica Coody

send announcements to:
**Seminole Nation
Communications Dept.**

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Anniversary

Wayne + Annie Shaw
April 19
47th Wedding Anniversary

Al + Ella Colman
April 23
19th Wedding Anniversary

Al and Ella Colman



Zack Williams
April 1
Love: Aunt Kimbo



Scott Horton
April 5
Love: Annie



Chelsea Fish
April 8
Love: Aiyani, Noah and Osvna



Micah Mansker
April 15
From: Your Family



Tribal Court Filings March 2013

Civil

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| In the Matter of Richard McCulley | Name Change |
| Lottie Coody v. Seminole Nation Gaming Commissioners, et al | Petition |
| J.D. Hill v. Lea Hill | Custody |
| John Brummett v. Elizabeth Brummett | Custody |
| Timothy Pearson v. Mahaley Hunnicutt | Modification |
| Olivia B. Gonzales v. Brian L. Hicks | Custody |
| In the Matter of Carmalita Frazier | Adult Guardianship |

Divorce

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Leatrice LookingGlass v. Larry LookingGlass | Dissolution of Marriage |
| Abraham Davis II v. Wanda Lou Shupe | Dissolution of Marriage |
| Sandra Little v. Thomas U. Little | Dissolution of Marriage |
| Misty Carpitcher v. Lewis Carpitcher | Dissolution of Marriage |
| Jennifer R. Kelley v. Zachariah Kelley | Dissolution of Marriage |

Child Support

None filed during this period

Protective Orders

None filed during this period

Small Claims

One case filed this period

Juvenile

Two guardianships involving minor children filed
One adoption filed this period

Criminal

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Seminole Nation v. Edward Alford | Criminal Trespass, Disorderly Conduct, Public Intoxication |
|----------------------------------|--|

There were three tribal court sessions held in March involving the following case types:

- Criminal Dockets - 7
- Civil Dockets - 14
- Domestic Violence Dockets - 1
- Child Support Dockets - 14
- Juvenile Dockets - 8

44 total cases heard in March 2013

[Notice] Pursuant to Title 5A, Chapter 8, Section 803 of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Code of Laws, the Cokv Tvlvme is obligated to publish court filings and legal notices.

Probation Department

Probation Statistics - March 2013

Currently there are 12 defendants on probation, 10 of which are members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. One is enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, another is enrolled with the Comanche Nation.

Out of the 12, ten (10) are in compliance and doing well. Warrants have been issued for two clients for being non-compliant and violating court orders.

[Males]

Two (2) males are serving twelve (12) months of supervised probation sentence for drug charges.

Two (2) males are serving twelve (12) months of supervised probation sentence for disorderly conduct.

Three (3) males are serving twelve (12) months of supervised probation sentence for public intoxication, having an intoxicating beverage in public and disorderly conduct.

One (1) male is serving twelve (12) months of supervised probation sentence for embezzlement.

[Females]

Two (2) females are serving twelve (12) months of supervised probation sentence for embezzlement.

One (1) female is serving twelve (12) months of supervised probation sentence for disorderly conduct.

One (1) female is serving twelve (12) months of supervised probation sentence for drug charges.

Bigler

continued from page 3

and tribal judges don't see state or federal courts protecting tribal rights. If sovereignty is going to be asserted it is going to happen in the first instance in tribal court.

Plaintiffs and Defendants. The majority of cases will involve only Seminole members or other Indians. Occasionally non-Indians are involved in divorce cases, however, the Seminole Constitution specifically limits civil jurisdiction of the Seminole courts over non-members to those "involving nonmembers who voluntarily submit themselves to the civil jurisdiction of the Nation's courts" (Article XVI).

Court Clerks. The Clerks are generally members of the tribe or related to the tribe. Clerks are not usually lawyers. However, the tribal clerks tend to give more assistance to those seeking to use the tribal courts through explaining the court process or supplying forms, which usually does not occur in State Court.

Elected Officials and Tribal Employees. Officials have a definite perspective, and obviously are tribal people. Concerns about protecting tribal sovereignty from assault by state and federal authority are very important. They also will be particularly aware of tribal history. While not usually directly involved in cases, they are responsible for carrying out the laws and court orders through their departments and also enacting laws.

Tribal Employees interact with the Court in various ways, from testifying, advocating or assisting the court as child welfare, social services, domestic violence, or lighthorse officers to name a few. These employees may or may not be tribal members, but many who are not are either Indian, married to or related to tribal members. Some are non-Indians. Most of these people will understand tribal relations, customs and history. They will also likely understand the need to protect "tribal" interests.

Attorneys. Law school trained and may include a few Indians who are practicing attorneys in tribal court. The court may also have some lay advocates that are tribal members. Attorneys bring the entire "weight" of western legal training to their initial work in tribal courts. It may take time to be educated into Tribal Court justice system.

Conclusion

While the Seminole court is patterned on the American court system, it is still a creation of the Seminole people. State court recognizes they are a reflection of their customs and traditions and there is no need for a tribal court to ignore our Indian heritage. Thus, each of the participants in Seminole Court has a chance to play a role in preserving the Seminole Nation as it moves forward. We in the Seminole judiciary are honored to be a part of the Nation.

education

NAK-KERRETV



Justice Warriors fall short in bid for ORES championship

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On February 23, 2013 the Justice Warriors seventh and eighth grade boys basketball team played for their second consecutive Organization of Rural Elementary Schools basketball championship.

Last year, they took home the gold ball.

This year they fell short, losing to Darlington 47-36.

The Warriors started their season with a 19-0 record and finished the year 26-2. They lost two starters from last year's team, and this year every team was going to be after their title, especially after returning seven of their top nine players.

From day one of the season Warriors Head Coach Chris Jones talked to his team about the possibility of repeating as champions. He told them that a target was going to be on their back the whole year.

"We knew going into every game, night in and night out, that we were going to get everybody's best shot. That's the way we prepared this year," said Jones.

With the Warriors losing their most valuable player from last year, Christian Leetka, they knew that their top seven had to lead them throughout the season. And in every game someone stepped up and led their team, Jones said.

"The thing about this group is that there wasn't a vocal leader. A lot of them led by example, and I think that's the biggest thing as this group moves on," said Jones.

Jones said that he brought in high school graduates to play against his team during practice because he wanted his players to know that they had played better players in practice when they faced their opponents this season.

"When we stepped on the floor each night, I always felt like we were the better team. I felt like we were better prepared," said Jones.

"I felt like our kids worked harder, and I felt like they saw something better than their opponent everyday in practice," he added.

"This group is the most decorated group to come through this tradition-rich program," said Jones. "For that, I think they will be remembered for a long time."

When the championship game against Darlington ended, Jones took his team into one last huddle and told them that he was the taking the responsibility for the loss. He didn't want the players to walk away blaming themselves, and he wanted his team to understand that it wasn't their fault they lost.

"I wanted them to know that there was nothing they could do on that floor to disappoint me," said Jones. "As we walked away 26-2 with the silver ball, I wanted them to hold their heads high and to know they did everything in their power."

"That's what I wanted all of them to understand. If they did everything in their power, they don't have anything to hang their heads about," said Jones.



Tribe opens Prom Closet

SEMINOLE. – Lydia Overall, a Seminole Nation tribal member, was recently named the tribe's new Johnson O'Malley coordinator.

Overall was born and raised in Seminole. She previously worked for Strother Public Schools as the Indian Education coordinator, completing the Impact Aid Title VII and JOM grants. Overall also worked at Seminole Public Schools for seven years as an academic tutor.

"I'm so happy and excited to be working for the Seminole Nation to help meet the needs of our students," Overall said.

Overall is currently assisting with the Prom Closet for Native American high school students who want to attend the prom but don't have the funds to purchase the dresses, shoes, evening purses, wraps, gloves, and hair clips for girls and suits, ties, belts, trousers, dress shoes and jackets for male students.

These items can be borrowed through the Prom Closet and brought back the following Monday after the prom.

day after the prom.

The Prom Closet, located at 205 North Main Street in downtown Seminole, is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through Saturday, April 20, 2013.

Overall will also be available from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the week and all day Saturdays for alterations.

"Let's help our youth and recycle," said Overall. "Many of us have a pair of dress shoes we aren't using, or a formal dress our daughter, niece or grandchild wore once or twice at the back of a closet. Or maybe we have a nice bag, or sparkly hair clip some high school girl would be so happy to wear for her special event. Please dig in your closets or attics and make a donation."

The drop location for donations to the Prom Closet is the Seminole Nation Tribal Complex in Wewoka.

For more information about the Prom Closet, please contact Lydia Overall at (405) 257-7261.



photograph submitted

OKC Thunder player Nick Collison signs tribal member Michael Cole's t-shirt during Thunder Youth Basketball Camp on March 14, 2013.

Courynn named to honor roll

DALLAS, Tex. – Tribal member Aubrey Elle Courynn was named to the honor roll at Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School in Dallas, Tex.

Aubrey, 6, is in the first grade. She enjoys cheerleading and learning the Mvskoke language with her grandfather Calvin Warledo.

Aubrey is the daughter of Joshua and Lela Warledo Anguiano, granddaughter of Wetona Warledo and the great-granddaughter of Wisey Narcomey.

She is a member of the Eufaula band.



Cole attends Thunder camp

Dustin Gray
Editor
gray.d@sno-nsn.gov

Tribal member Michael G. Cole attended the Oklahoma City Thunder Youth Basketball Camp, held March 14-15, 2013 at the Thunder Community Events Center in Edmond, Okla.

Thunder Youth Basketball camps and clinics take place year-round and offer boys and girls, ages 5 to 16, the opportunity to learn the skills and principles that make a successful team player. The camps are presented by Cox Communications.

In addition to meeting and receiving instruction from Thunder players and coaches, campers also receive t-shirts, headbands, basketballs and \$10 vouchers toward purchases at the OKC Thunder gift shop.

Cole thoroughly enjoyed the experience and had a lot of fun interacting with Thunder Forward/Center Nick Collison and other coaches at the camp.

Michael G. Cole is the son of Christina Cole and grandson of Sonny and Pinky Cole of Oklahoma City.

He is a member of the Tom Palmer band and Wind clan.

Fellowships

Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Artist Fellowships May 3, 2013 Deadline

VANCOUVER, Wash. – American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian artists are encouraged to apply for the 2014 Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Artist Fellowships before May 3. This unique national fellowship honors excellence by Native artists in six disciplines: dance, filmmaking, literature, music, traditional arts and visual arts.

Ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000, the fellowships awarded by the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) recognize the creativity and expression of exceptional Native artists who have made significant impact in the field. In past years, artists living in the Midwest, including Bobby Bullett (Chippewa), Brent Michael Davids (Mohican), Emily Johnson (Yupik), Bennie Klain (Navajo), Ronald Paquin (Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa) and Rosy Simas (Seneca) were honored with this award.

"Through the fellowship program, we hope to foster the creative voices of our indigenous artists," said foundation Program Director Reuben Tomás Roqueñi (Yaqui/Mexican). "The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation believes in the beauty and inspiration of the work of Native artists and the fellowships provide a significant resource for their practice."

Artists who are members of federally and state-recognized U.S. tribes, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities can review criteria in full and apply by the May 3 deadline at: <http://nacf.us/2014-fellowships>.

The foundation will announce award recipients in November 2013.

For questions and technical support, contact Program Director Reuben Roqueñi: reuben@nativeartsandcultures.org or 360-314-2421.

Since it was launched in 2009, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation has awarded \$1,341,000 in grants to 72 Native artists and organizations in 20 states.

In addition to awarding Native artist fellowships, NACF has funded organizations including the American Indian Center of Chicago, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums of Oklahoma City, the First People's Fund in Rapid City, S.D. and the Northwoods Nijii Enterprise Community in Flambeau, Wis.

Created after decades of visioning among the nation's first peoples with the support of the Ford Foundation and others, NACF is a national charity solely dedicated to supporting the revitalization, appreciation and perpetuation of Native arts and cultures.

To learn more about the foundation's mission and past fellows awarded, visit www.nativeartsandcultures.org.

culture + language

FULLETV & PUNV KV

A lesson about wheelchairs

Natalie Harjo
Historic Preservation Officer
harjo.n@sno-nsn.gov

When my teenagers were smaller, like most children, they asked questions all the time.

Often, when I would talk to them, I would tell them to “look for the answers and see what you find.”

I would also encourage them to “learn at least one thing every day.”

One day, after a day during their Spring Break from school, (which was also a day that I did nothing but scold them, it seemed) I asked my oldest son, “What was the one thing you learned today?”

His reply was simple. He said, “Well, remember when I was playing with those crutches today and you told me *“Mecekot! ‘sakkopvknvtokotos!”*

I nodded and said, “Do you know what I meant and why?”

He said, “It means that crutches weren’t toys and that I didn’t need to play with them?”

I told him yes and explained a little more to him.

When I was younger, I told him, my grandparents would say that if you played with things like that, crutches, wheelchairs, canes and such, that it wasn’t good because not only would you ‘jinx’ yourself, but you also ‘make fun’ of others that may need those things to help them. To do such a thing would be insensitive to those that may be ashamed they have to use them.

Grandma would say *“Mecekot! ‘sakkopvknvtokotos! Unkv celvt-kvhantos, yvmvn ‘sevnictv ceme areton!”*

Again, in my broken recollec-

tion of her words, what she told me was, “Don’t do that! It’s not a toy! You are going to fall, then you’re going to be wandering around here using them!”

What my grandma said to me always resonated in my head when I saw such tools and objects. I had cousins who didn’t have the luxury of hearing the same rules that I had to adhere to, and at times in my youth, I would see them playing with wheelchairs, or hobbling around acting like they had a cane and my grandmother’s words would play over and over in my head.

I even had a part in a school play in high school speech and drama class that required me to push another student in a wheelchair, and voiced my convictions to the director.

Yeah, my Grandma was that scary. Aren’t they all?

I asked my son if he understood, to which he replied yes. I was proud that he had attempted to understand the reasoning and didn’t just take my usual ‘bouts of shouts’ to him as a random rule or reason to discipline him. He seemed to grasp, at a young age, the underlying meanings of many of our cultural rules and regulations.

I showed my pride by allowing him to go in the field and play on the haystacks as he originally wanted. That was his reward.

Today, if you ask him why you don’t do such things, he will remember why and tell you. He remembers.

A few days ago, I was making a beeline out of Wal-Mart, and my daughter was with me and wanted to stop at the ‘toy grabber’

machine. As she was attempting to win a prize, I noticed two young native children who appeared to be playing with a wheelchair at the front of the store.

My daughter said, “Meemee, they aren’t supposed to be playing with those are they?”

I said, “No, sister, they aren’t” and proceeded to walk over and see what the situation was.

I asked one of the boys if they needed help with something or if they were just playing with the wheelchairs and the older of the two boys said, “No, we are trying to get a chair for our grandma because her legs are hurting and we are going to push her around the store.”

I said, “Oh, well good for you! I was just checking to see if you needed help.”

As I turned around to walk out of the store, I heard one of the boys say to the other, “besides, you’re not supposed to play with wheelchairs anyway...”

I smiled. If I didn’t have to catch up with my daughter, I would have tried to reward them both in some way, even though it was a smart remark directed toward me.

It was good to see that contrary to popular belief, our traditions and customs, rules and regulations that were handed down by our grandparents, are still alive today in the hearts and minds of our youth.

Let us continue to spread the knowledge of our ancestors to enlighten the futures and lives of our children.


It can only continue if we continue to believe.



Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum Staff

A young tribal member sews during a Spring Patchwork Class at the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Annex Building. Classes are held each Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through May 4, 2013.

Public Notice



Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
JUDGMENT FUND OFFICE
2007 W. WRANGLER BLVD
SEMINOLE, OK 74868
(405)382-0549

Leonard M Harjo, Principal Chief
Ella M. Colman, Assistant Chief

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Seminole Nation has experienced overwhelming demands on the Judgment Fund. At present the demand for funds has made it impossible to maintain adequate funding for certain programs as required by law. The Seminole Nation Trust Fund Management Board made recommendations to the Seminole Nation General Council that the Higher Education and Vocational Training Program Scholarship payment amounts be reduced and modified, and that Vocational Training Scholarship payments be suspended.

On March 2, 2013, the Seminole Nation General Council approved and enacted the requested changes to the Higher Education and Vocational Training Program.

The reduction and suspension of certain scholarship payment will be until interest rates and market investment returns improve, and the Seminole Nation General Council approved to reinstate payments. The following Higher Education for FULL-TIME students ONLY!

| Full-Time Student | Semester | Trimester | Quarter | Limit/Year |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Freshman | \$400 | \$266 | \$200 | \$ 800 |
| Sophomore | \$500 | \$333 | \$200 | \$1,000 |
| Junior | \$700 | \$466 | \$350 | \$1,400 |
| Senior | \$800 | \$533 | \$400 | \$1,600 |

The total amount Higher Education students will be eligible to receive was decreased from \$5,600.00 to \$4,800.00.

Eligibility requirements for Incentive Award payments were also amended to require a FULL-TIME student to carry **15 hours** and **maintain a 3.0 grade point average**.

Advanced Degree, Continuing Education, and Vo-tech Assistance programs were suspended by the General Council.

PER Ordinance - TO 2013-01

The Seminole Nation and the Seminole Nation Trust Fund Management Board are committed to promoting and assisting Seminoles in the pursuit of high education. Until such time as interest rates improve and the General Council reinstates programs, these changes are necessary to ensure the longevity of the Seminole Nation Judgment Fund. If you have questions, please feel free to contact this office at (405) 382-0459.

www.sno-nsn.gov



Seminole Nation of Oklahoma-Office of Historic Preservation

Em vliketv omvlken en hueket fulles!

GATHERING OF CLANS

For More Info:
Call/Text Natalie
405.220.2123

Refreshments!
Door Prizes!
All Ages Welcome!

Thursday, April 18th
6pm-8pm
North Community Center

The Historic Preservation Office invites you to come be a part of the effort to inform and re-educate our tribal members on clan relation/kinship, clan status, clan creation stories, as well as other affiliated information of our Seminole People!



FILED
In the
Seminole Nation District Court

MAR 27 2013
LINDA STEWART, COURT CLERK
DEPUTY

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SEMINOLE NATION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
RICHARD LEE McCULLEY,) Case No: CIV-13-07
To Change His Name.)


NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that *Richard Lee McCulley*, has filed a Petition for Change of Name in this Court to change his name from *Richard Lee McCulley* to that of *Richard Lee Dunn*.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a hearing has been set on the 1ST day of May, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. before Judge Marsha Harlan at the District Court for the Seminole Nation, located at the Mekusukey Mission, Seminole, Oklahoma. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said court this 27th day of March, 2013.



Linda Stewart
Linda Stewart, Court Clerk

community

ETVLW

Event Calendar

Wild Onion Dinner April 6, 2013 Springfield UMC

Springfield United Methodist Church will be hosting an all you can eat wild onion and traditional food buffet dinner on Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12.

Springfield United Methodist Church is located two miles south of Okemah.

It can be accessed by traveling east on Highway 27 for four miles, then turning south for one mile. Signs for Springfield UMC are posted along Highways 27 and 62.

Child Abuse Protection Team Luncheon April 12, 2013 SN Grisso Mansion

In honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the fourth annual Child Abuse Protection Team Meeting and Luncheon will be held Friday, April 12, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Seminole Nation Grisso Mansion Museum.

The meeting is hosted by the Seminole Nation Social Services' Child Protection Team. Activities will include a guest speaker and panel, luncheon and door prizes.

To register, please contact the Seminole Nation Social Services Department at (405) 257-6257.

CHR Car Seat Safety Symposium April 27, 2013 Mekusukey Mission

The Seminole Nation Community Health Representative Program will be holding a Car Seat Safety Symposium on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the North Community Center.

The event is free to attend, and the first 100 individuals to register will receive a child car seat with instructions. For those that already have child safety seats, the CHR program will inspect for safety and proper installation. Seminole County residents must provide a CDIB card to receive a child safety seat.

SN Tribal Court's "Ask a Lawyer Day" May 2, 2013 Mekusukey Mission

In observation of Law Day, the Seminole Nation Tribal Court System will host "Ask a Lawyer Day" on Thursday, May 2, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the North Community Center.

Lawyers from the Seminole Nation Bar Association will be on hand to answer any questions, and additional attorneys will be available via telephone.

Topics for "Ask a Lawyer Day" will include family law and divorce, landlord and tenant law, bankruptcy and probate.

All consultations are free of charge, and services will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, contact the Tribal Court at (405) 303-2251.

'20s Murder Mystery May 10, 2013 SN Grisso Mansion

The SN Grisso Mansion will host its second 1920s themed Murder at the Mansion event on Friday, May 10.

Tickets are \$50 per person, and cost includes a five-course gourmet dinner.

For reservations call (405) 383-2445 or email grissomansion@sno-nsn.gov.

Chilocco Indian School Reunion May 31, 2013 Newkirk, Okla.

The Chilocco Indian School (Class of 1963) will celebrate their 50th high school reunion May 31, 2013 on the Chilocco campus.

Members of the Class of 1963 are attempting to locate and contact Edward Factor.

For more information about the reunion, please contact Ida Jane (McCoy) Johnson at (918) 284-1703.

Additionally, the Chilocco National Alumni Association will hold their fourth annual Coming Home Pow Wow and Stomp Dance on Friday, May 31, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the First Council Casino Hotel and Event Center in Newkirk, Okla.

For more information, contact Jake Larney at (405) 401-8881.



Joe Clay, Seminole Nation Communications

TYP Director Rena Tiger (front, left) and TYP Prevention Education Specialist James Fife (front, center) discuss the *The Bully Project* movie at a screening on Monday, March 18, 2013 at the Mekusukey Mission Community Services Building.

TYP movie night focuses on topic of bullying

Joe Clay
Staff Writer
clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

On March 18, 2013, the Tribal Youth Program held a screening for the movie *The Bully Project*. Over 45 people from Seminole, Sasakwa, Wewoka and Strothers gathered at the TYP youth room in the Mekusukey Mission Community Services Building to watch the movie.

When *The Bully Project* first came out, it only screened at a few movie theatres in Oklahoma City.

James Fife, TYP prevention education specialist, and Rena Tiger, Tribal Youth Program director, thought it might be a film to show their tribal youth.

The first time Fife watched the film, it reminded him of his days in high school.

"I was shocked and numb when I

watched this film. It was a powerful documentary," said Fife. "It took me back to my high school years. I saw the exact thing going on that was going on in this film."

Fife said the TYP wanted to show the film and discuss it with the youth and their parents to help understand how bullying affects what is going on in their schools and communities.

"We wanted to come out with a plan to get something positive started to curb the effects of bullying, because it can cause emotional, spiritual, mental and physical problems," said Fife.

Fife said the film was really jarring to youth as they watched intently. They had never seen bullying like they saw in the movie.

Fife said some of the students may see [movie](#) on [page 8](#)



Joe Clay, Seminole Nation Communications

Diabetes Program Director Dewayne Tiger (center, left) and Wildlife, Parks and Recreation Director Shane Phillips (center, right) demonstrate one of the games played at the TYP Spring Break Fun Night on Thursday, March 21, 2013.

TYP hosts Spring Break Fun Night at Mission Gym

Joe Clay
Staff Writer
clay.j@sno-nsn.gov

On March 21, 2013 The Tribal Youth Program hosted Spring Break Fun Night for 38 students, ages 6 to 14, at the Mekusukey Mission Gymnasium.

The night started out with a dinner, followed by games like jail break, dodge ball, frisbee lacrosse, 60-second basketball breakdown,

brown bag special and tug-o-war.

"It was fun for the youth to have a night where they could be kids and have fun," said James Fife, TYP prevention education specialist.

All parents that attended the event received a gift bag with a TYP shirt, pen, flashlight, mini screwdriver set and a mini manicure set.

This year, TYP wanted to focus on indirect prevention education, see [fun night](#) on [page 8](#)

Health & Wellness

Water Aerobics MWF Seminole State

The Seminole Nation Diabetes program will once again be holding water aerobics at Seminole State College.

Diabetes Program Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison will lead the water aerobic classes, which are designed to help participants increase mobility, lower glucose and blood pressure levels and provide stress relief.

Classes will be held each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Seminole State College Pool throughout the winter and spring months.

For more information about the Seminole Nation Diabetes program's water aerobics classes, contact Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email healthylife@sno-nsn.gov.

Tai Chi Fridays OAP Building

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program is hosting Tai Chi classes every Wednesday at the Older American Program Building in Wewoka beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Tai Chi helps increase energy levels and improves muscle strength, flexibility, balance and endurance.

Deep breathing techniques used while performing Tai Chi help create harmony between the body and mind and lower stress.

For more information about the Seminole Nation Diabetes program's Tai Chi classes, contact Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email healthylife@sno-nsn.gov

Boot Camp Monday + Thursday Seminole FBC

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program is hosting Self-Motivated Family Circuit Training each Monday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. through May 30 at the Seminole First Baptist Church.

This pace fitness training will offer a full body workout that is never boring. Participants will burn up to 1,000 calories each session while increasing stamina and strength, reducing blood pressure and improving cardio.

In addition to earning a free t-shirt and improving overall health, participants will also decrease their risk of getting diabetes by 50 per cent and can lose seven per cent of their body weight by summer.

For more information about the self-motivated family circuit training, please contact Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email healthylife@sno-nsn.gov.

Range of Motion + Flexibility Classes Wednesdays OAP Building

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program is hosting Range of Motion and Flexibility classes every Wednesday at the Older American Program Building in Wewoka beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The classes are designed to improve joint pain, reduce stress, and lower the risk of muscle strain associated with conditions like arthritis.

For more information about the Seminole Nation Diabetes program's Range of Motion and Flexibility classes, contact Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email healthylife@sno-nsn.gov

Microfit Tests Ongoing Mekusukey Mission

The Seminole Nation Diabetes Program is now offering free Microfit assessment tests.

To schedule an appointment, please contact Exercise Specialist Jerome Harrison at (405) 382-3761 or email healthylife@sno-nsn.gov

Health Minds 5K May 18, 2013 Oklahoma City

The Chickasaw Healthy Minds 5K run/walk will be held Saturday, May 18, 2013 at Wheeler Park in Oklahoma City.

Register at www.signmeup.com/89263.



Dustin Gray, *Seminole Nation Communications*

Dancers participate in the third annual Step-2-Stomp Away Diabetes event held Saturday, Mar. 23 at the Mekusukey Mission Gym. The Diabetes program fell 76,798 short of its million step goal.



photograph submitted

Tribal member Alice Joplin stands in front of her business, Salon Mirror Mirror, in Elgin, Okla.

Joplin opens business in Elgin

SEMINOLE – Tribal member Alice Joplin opened her own business – Salon Mirror Mirror – in March 2013. The salon is located in Elgin, Okla.

Alice Joplin is a 2000 graduate of Tecumseh High School. She also completed Bob Trousedale Barber College in Shawnee, Okla. She has been doing hair since 2001.

Alice is married to Dusty Joplin of Seminole. They have two children, Graclyn and

Zadyn, and live in Elgin.

Alice is the daughter of Gwen and James Warrenburg of Tecumseh and the granddaughter of Alex and Joan Burgess and J.D. and the late Dean Warrenburg.

Alice is a member of the Tusekia Harjo band.

Her family is proud of all her success and sends their congratulations.



Kimberly Richardson, *SN Communications*

movie

continued from page 7

have experienced bullying, but to see it like that in the film, it was eye opening. The film hit close to home, when it followed two families from Tuttle, Okla. and Perkins, Okla.

After the film there was a discussion, and parents and youth had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss what happens in their schools.

Fife said the youth and their parents went away from the film with a better understanding of what they face.

One youth after the discussion asked how he could be a positive change in his school.

The TYP has plans to take *The Bully Project* to other communities to open awareness about bullying.

Tom Palmer band Council Rep. Fannie Harjo (center) pictured with her children Leona Rednose, Leatrice Looking-Glass, Letha Wise, Lou Ann Kuwaykla and Herschel Wise at Harjo's birthday party, held Mar. 23 in Seminole.

fun night

continued from page 7

and their goal for the night was to provide alternative choices for the youth that centered on physical activity, positive socialization with peers and team building.

TYP would like to thank the Seminole Nation Community Health Representatives program, Human Resources department, Food and Nutrition Services program, Wildlife, Parks and Recreation department and the Diabetes program.

Legal Amicus briefs filed in support of Brown family, ICWA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The US federal government and 19 states are among a broad coalition who filed amicus briefs on March 28 with the United States Supreme Court supporting the rights of Native American father Dusten Brown and his daughter, Veronica, to remain together as a family, calling for the nation's highest court to uphold a previous South Carolina Supreme Court decision. The well-being of Veronica, the Brown family, and the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a focus of all the briefs.

The case *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*, to be heard by the Supreme Court on April 16, 2013, involves a South Carolina couple seeking review of a South Carolina Supreme Court ruling and attempting to force Dusten Brown, a member of the Cherokee Nation, to give his daughter Veronica up for adoption. Brown, who is now raising Veronica at their home in Oklahoma, has prevailed in every court that has considered this matter, including the South Carolina Family Court and the South Carolina Supreme Court.

Joining the U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli and 19 states, including 18 state attorneys general, are a large array of groups who submitted 24 separate briefs in all. The overwhelming support includes 17 former and current members of Congress; Casey Family Programs, the Children's Defense Fund, and 16 other child welfare organizations; the American Civil Liberties Union; broad coalitions of psychology associations, child advocates, and legal experts; adult Native American adoptees; and tribal amicus briefs which include 333 American Indian tribes.

"The broad base of support in this case is historic. In the history of the work of the Tribal Supreme Court Project, no Indian law case has generated more of a unified message to the Supreme Court about Indian law," said Richard Guest, staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, noting the outpouring of interest and support for Veronica, the Brown family, and ICWA.

Many of the briefs highlight the findings of the South Carolina Family Court, which found that "the birth father is a fit and proper person to have custody of his child" who "has convinced [the Court] of his unwavering love for this child," and were upheld by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

The amicus brief of the United States federal government emphasized the importance of ICWA, stating that "the United States has a substantial interest in the case because Congress enacted ICWA in furtherance of 'the special relationship between the United States and the Indian tribes and their members and the Federal responsibility to Indian people.'" The brief further defends the constitutionality of ICWA, arguing that "ICWA, which is predicated on Congress's considered judgment that application of its protections serves the best interests of Indian children and protects vital interests of their parents and Tribes, does not violate any substantive due process protections." It concludes that "[t]he South Carolina courts properly awarded custody of Baby Girl to Father."

In the brief of leading national child welfare organizations, the best interest of the child is highlighted, in addition to the value of ICWA.

No one understands the human toll custody disputes can take more than amici, 18 child welfare organizations who have dedicated literally scores of years to the on-the-ground development and implementation of best practices and policies for child placement decision making. Amici have seen up close what works, and what does not. In amici's collective judgment, ICWA works very well and, in fact, is a model for child welfare and placement decision making that should be extended to all children. Much forward progress in the child welfare area would be damaged by rolling the law

back.

A brief from Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne was joined by attorneys general from 17 other states—Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin— and argued against interference in the relationship between states and tribes in matters regarding ICWA, asserting, "States and tribes have collaborated to ensure that the mandates and spirit of ICWA are fulfilled.... Early and complete compliance with ICWA ensures the security and stability of adoptive families as well as tribes and Indian families." The State of Minnesota Department of Human Services also filed a brief.

Not one state submitted briefs in support of *Adoptive Couple*.

"This brief includes nine Republican and nine Democrat attorneys general," said John Dossett, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) general counsel. "Party affiliation does not matter. The federal trust responsibility is a nonpartisan commitment, which includes support for the rights of American Indian families and tribal governments to protect their Indian children—and in this case, for a loving father to be with his daughter and for her to be with her family."

Seventeen current and former members of Congress also reflected this bipartisan support, noting in their brief the circumstances that led to the enactment of ICWA in 1978, as well as asserting Congress's exclusive power to legislate with respect to Indian tribes. It stated:

In 1978, Congress enacted ICWA in direct response to state adoption policies that were draining Indian tribes of their future citizens. Such practices threatened the very existence of Indian tribes. Without children to grow up as their citizens, tribes would be left with no one to speak their language, carry on their traditions and culture, or participate in their tribal governments.... Ultimately, any decision limiting Congress's authority to pass legislation like ICWA...would effectively preclude Congress from exercising its plenary authority in Indian affairs, and render Congress unable to fulfill its historic duties as trustee to the Indian tribes.

Terry Cross, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), commended former Senator James Abourezk for taking the lead on the brief, stating, "Senator Abourezk sponsored the bill that became ICWA because he recognized that the widespread removal of Indian children from their homes was a continuation of forced assimilation practices that had no place in our society. His leadership today sends an unmistakable message that there is unified support in defending his law from those who would return to the pre-ICWA era."

Two national tribal amicus briefs were submitted. The first, focused on the legislative history and importance of ICWA, was submitted by the Association on American Indian Affairs, NCAI, and NICWA, who were joined by 30 Indian tribes and five Indian organizations. A second national tribal amicus brief addresses the constitutional issues raised by the petitioners and also includes 24 tribal nations and organizations. The members of the Tribal Supreme Court Project—NARF and NCAI—in partnership with NICWA, joined together to organize the briefs in support of the father. In all, 333 tribes submitted briefs in support of the father.

Oral arguments for *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* will be held April 16, with a decision expected shortly thereafter.

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma's amicus brief related to the case was filed on March 28, 2013. For more information, please visit www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/adoptive-couple-v-baby-girl/.

national

WACENA



National Congress of American Indians

NCAI presents Leadership Awards

Washington, D.C. – The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has announced the recipients of the organization's prestigious Indian Country Leadership Awards. Senator Patty Murray (D – WA), The National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Andrew Lee of the Seneca Nation, and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate will be honored at the organization's Indian Country Leadership Award Banquet held Tuesday, March 5, 2013 in conjunction with NCAI's 2013 Executive Council Winter Session.

The organization's Indian Country Leadership Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations to Indian Country in four categories: Congressional Leadership Award, Native American Leadership Award, Governmental Leadership Award, and Public Sector Leadership Award.

Congressional Leadership Award

Senator Patty Murray

As a champion for tribal sovereignty and Native women, Senator Patty Murray was instrumental in the recent passage of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization.



Senator Murray has advocated passionately for families and upheld her commitment to Indian Country by ensuring that life-saving assistance for victims of domestic violence extends to Native communities. Senator Murray is a key Indian Country partner in the Senate having served as the first female Chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee during the 112th Congress and currently serving as the first female Chair of the Senate Budget Committee.

Public Sector Leadership Award

The National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women ("NTF") is focused on the development, passage and implementation of effective public policy to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. NTF is a national coalition made up of thousands of civil rights organizations, labor unions, advocates for children and youth, anti-poverty groups, immigrant or-

ganizations, women's rights leaders, faith organizations, education groups, and others. The Task Force stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Indian Country to secure the passage of a comprehensive Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization that provided safety and justice for Native women.

Native American Leadership Award

Andrew Lee

Andrew Lee (Seneca) has dedicated himself to advancing innovations that build a stronger future for Indian Country. He is currently Vice-President at Aetna and has also served as Chief-of-Staff to the President and Head of Aetna's Office of Public Policy. Before joining Aetna in 2005, Lee was Executive Director of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, where he founded the Honoring Nations awards program. In 2011, Lee was the first American Indian named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. He is a Trustee of the Nathan Cummings Foundation and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.



Governmental Leadership Award

Administrator Craig Fugate

Craig Fugate has served as Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since May 2009. As a former state emergency management director, he has credibly emphasized the importance of intergovernmental collaboration with tribal nations. He has overseen a significant strengthening in FEMA-tribal relations, consistently advocating for our nation-to-nation relationship and instituting a FEMA Headquarters Office of Tribal Relations Liaison and appointing a tribal legal advisor in the FEMA Office of the Chief Counsel. He was the lead Administration champion for the amendments to the Stafford Act that were signed into law by President Obama in January 2013.



Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar speaks during NCAI's 2013 Executive Winter Council Session, held between March 3-7 in Washington, D.C. NCAI presented their annual leadership awards during the session.

Assistant Sec. of Indian Affairs: 'I don't want to take sides'

Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

Native Times

www.nativetimes.com

NORMAN, Okla. – For Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, the last six months have been a whirlwind reality check.

"We have 566 federally-recognized tribes," he said. "When I came in, I thought each one would only have one problem that they'd bring to my office. Instead each one has at least three or four."

"It's a hard job. I've basically taken on almost all of the United States' problems over the last 200 years."

Sworn in on Oct. 12, 2012, Washburn's appearance at the University of Oklahoma Law School's annual American Indian Law Symposium marked his first public speaking engagement since taking office. A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and the former dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, he is an OU graduate.

Speaking to about 300 people at the OU College of Law, Washburn talked about how his childhood experiences at Carl Albert Indian Hospital shaped his views on tribal jurisdiction.

Originally opened as an Indian Health Services-operated facility, the Ada, Okla., hospital is now operated by the Chickasaw Nation. As one of three children, his single mother would bring all three children with her if one needed to be seen. The trips often turned into all-day affairs thanks to delays and staffing issues at the hospital. However, after the Chickasaw Nation took over operations, he and his family noticed many small improvements across the board.

"Those little things, like a phone call when they're running behind, made a big difference," he said. "Those phone calls were a sign of respect that our time, my relatives' time was also valuable."

"If you put the tools in the hands of

tribes, they'll generally do better than the federal government.

"Even with less money, tribal employees can do more than most federal employees, as they're more accountable to the local community."

With the BIA employment numbers down almost 50 percent compared to the Clinton administration, that emphasis on self-governance extends to his office's role as a mediator between tribes, with the BIA only becoming involved when absolutely necessary.

"I didn't take this job because I wanted to be a referee," Washburn said. "Watching two tribes fight is like watching my kids fight. I don't want to take sides. I want them to work it out on their own."

Among those proverbial children fighting are the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, who have been facing a constitutional crisis for more than two years with two separate governments claiming to be the legitimate authority. The fight has led a Custer County, Okla., judge to freeze the tribes' bank accounts until a clear, undisputed leader is named. Both governments have written requests on file for the Department of Interior to conduct the tribes' election scheduled for later this year.

Several members of one of the two governments, including its leader, Leslie Wandrie-Harjo, attended the symposium to draw attention to their tribes' situation and attempt to get confirmation that the Department of Interior will step in and help diffuse the situation. However, Washburn would not commit to federal involvement in Concho, Okla., and only promised that his office would at least review the situation.

"The No. 1 place for tribes to solve their problems is at home," he said. "It doesn't help for me to get involved in a tribe's internal war."

"This is one of the harder issues, but looking to the federal government for a rescue is simply not consistent with self-government. I grew up in an era when the BIA was known for bossing Indians around. I'm not interested in bossing other Indians around."

Washburn also said his office would not be intervening in the dispute between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, headquartered in Atmore, Ala., over a casino expansion project that could potentially desecrate Hickory Ground, a pre-removal burial ground, capitol and sacred site.

Despite the excavation of 57 sets of human remains, Poarch Band officials maintain that the \$246 million casino expansion project does not violate any potentially applicable federal laws, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The land, which has been held in trust since 1984, is part of the Alabama tribe's reservation and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

At a November emergency meeting of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Principal Chief George Tiger said Washburn had committed to trying to facilitate a meeting between the two tribes in early 2013. However, with a federal lawsuit now pending in the Middle District of Alabama, the assistant secretary said that offer is now off of the table.

"It's now in the court's hands," he said. "It is completely out of my hands. I'll be watching the litigation like everyone else at this point."

Opening arguments have not been scheduled yet in the civil suit. A video from the Feb. 15 arrest of four protestors at the site was released Wednesday via Vimeo in an effort to refute the Alabama tribe's claims that one of the protestors, Wayland Gray, made terrorist threats against the casino and its management.

in memoriam

RA VKERRICETV

Wanda E. Fife



Funeral services for Wanda E. Fife were held Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel in Seminole with Elder Lewis Fife officiating. Interment followed at Little Cemetery with Elder Frank Sewell officiating. Services were under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home.

Wanda E. Fife, longtime resident of Maud, passed from this life on Sunday, March 3, 2013 in Norman, Okla. She was 62.

Wanda was born March 16, 1950 to parents Della (Fife) Stewart and Earl L. Stewart in Claremore, Okla. She earned her Associates degree from Seminole State College in 1998.

Wanda was a proud member of the Tom Palmer band of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. She was also a member of Achena Presbyterian Church southeast of Maud.

Wanda worked for many years as a seamstress at Wrangler Jeans Company in Seminole before becoming a full-time homemaker.

On May 16, 1982 she married Winfred B. Fife in Shawnee. Sadly, he preceded her in death on July 18, 2008.

Wanda was a huge OU Sooner fan, and many say that she was worse than a teenager on her iPhone. She loved to care for her family and friends and wouldn't hesitate to be at their side if she was needed.

Wanda also loved her dog, Pepper.

She is preceded in death by her parents Della (Fife) Stewart and Earl L. Stewart; husband Winfred B. Fife; sisters Mabel Weaver and Cora Alsip; an infant sister; and brother Hobart Stewart.

Survivors include son James Fife of Maud; daughters Tiara and husband Phillip Kersey of Norman, and Tamara Stewart of Norman; step-daughters Sammie Fife of Maud, Cheryl Fife of Maud, Retta and husband Larry Brennan of Tecumseh and Melissa and Randall Hawkins of Ada; brother John and wife Annie Quillen of Jonesboro, Ga.; granddaughter Ava Olivia Kersey of Norman; eight step-grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Wanda is also survived by a host of other family and dear friends.

Casket bearers included Marc Brennan, Andre Womack, James Kinsey, Bradley Hawkins, Jason

Wolfe and Randall Hawkins.

Honorary casket bearers included Ronnie Treat, Lewis Fife, Rick Harjo, Frank Sewell, Blake Fife, Tony Fife, Larry Brennan and Ethan Deere.

Randy Harjo



Funeral services for Randy Harjo were held Monday, March 18, 2013 at the Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel in Seminole with Houston Tiger, Frank Brewer, Farin Coody and J.C. Simpson officiating. Interment followed at the Harjo Family Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Swearingen Funeral Home.

Randy Harjo passed from this life on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Shawnee. He was 53.

Randy was born June 19, 1959 to parents Jonases "Smokey" Harjo and Mary Ellen (Scott) Harjo in Oklahoma City. He attended Maud Public Schools and later worked for many years at the Wrangler Jeans Company in Seminole before retiring in 2010.

Randy was a proud member of the Newcomer band of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and Achena Presbyterian Church, located southeast of Maud.

He loved to go camping, play Sudoku and watch WWE wrestling.

Randy was also a self-proclaimed Oklahoma Sooner number one fan.

He is preceded in death by grandfather Lee Harjo; parents "Smokey" and Mary Harjo; and sisters Rosie Harjo, Kathie Hurst and Rita Phelps.

Survivors include brother Jonase Leon Harjo of Maud; sisters Joanna Harjo and husband Curtis Gentry of Asher, Okla., Jeannette Harjo-Codd and husband George of Staten Island, N.Y., Toni Harjo of Maud and Tiffany Harjo of Blackwell, Okla.; nephews Jacob, Jeremiah, Joshua, Christian, Hunter, Keelan, Androu, Nicholas, Michael and Trey; nieces Lia, Ashton, Andrea, Elizabeth, Alice and Kerra Lynn; and a host of other family and dear friends.

Casket bearers included Nolan "Buddy" Dodson, Tony Berryhill, James Turnbow, Herman Foster, Ronnie Powell and Keelan Paschal.

Lindsay Bondoni, Ringo Harjo, Albert Curley, Sonny Turnbow, David Harris, George Harjo and Paul Williams served as honorary casket bearers.

Redman Louis Spencer



Funeral services for Redman Louis Spencer were held Thursday, March 21, 2013 at Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church in Wewoka with Rev. Houston Tiger and Rev. Jimsey Harjo officiating. Services were under the direction of the Stout-Phillips Funeral Home.

Redman Louis Spencer passed away Saturday, March 16, 2013 in Okemah, Okla. He was 53.

Redman was born November 11, 1959 to parents John and Alice (Harjo) Spencer in Wewoka. He attended Eufaula Schools and later worked as a roofer.

Redman enjoyed fishing, telling stories and visiting with family and friends. He will be missed.

Redman is preceded in death by parents John and Alice (Harjo) Spencer; brothers Floyd Harjo, Cloyd Harjo, Richmond Spencer and David Spencer; and sisters Diana Spencer, Mary Beaver and Elsie Harjo.

Survivors include sister Ruby and husband Stoney Hill of Okemah; close nieces Kimberly Hill, Crystal Hill and Allison Fixico and husband Ronnie, all of Okemah; nephew Richard and wife Angelia Cotton of Seminole; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers included Mike Spencer, Shawn Spencer, Dakota Hill, Richard Cotton, Curtis Scott and Daniel Moppin.

Thomas Beaver, Tommy Beaver and Daniel Spencer served as honorary pallbearers.

Beverly Jo Walker



Funeral services for Beverly Jo Walker were held Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the Stout-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel in Wewoka. Burial followed at Oak-

wood Cemetery.

Beverly Jo Walker went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 in Shawnee, Okla. She was 71.

Beverly was born August 31, 1941 to parents Charles Joseph and Bessie (Kernel) Walker in Wewoka. She was a graduate Wewoka High School and received her LPN licenses from St. Anthony's Hospital.

Beverly previously worked for Elmwood Nursing Home, Jearl Smart at Wewoka Care Center and the Wewoka Indian Health Services Clinic, prior to retiring.

Beverly was a very caring person; always making sure her patients ate and had clothing to wear. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Beverly loved to watch basketball and football and loved going out with her co-workers to reminisce about the past.

She was a member of the Nurcup Harjo band of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and the Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church.

Beverly is preceded in death by her parents Charles Joseph and Bessie (Kernel) Walker, and granddaughter Kendalyn Campbell.

Survivors include children Rachel Campbell and Randolph Garfield of Wewoka; grandson Jeremy Campbell of Wewoka; brother Charles H. Walker of Melissa, Tex.; sister Elizabeth Betty Walker of Burnsville, Minn.; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Dave Edward Bowlegs



Funeral services for Dave Edward Bowlegs were held Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church with Rev. Houston Tiger, Rev. George Harjo and Rev. Jimsey Harjo officiating. Burial followed at the Tiger Family Cemetery.

Dave Edward Bowlegs passed away at his home in Wewoka on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 after a short illness. He was 73.

Dave was born September 18, 1939 to parents Edmond and Janie (Harjo) Bowlegs in Wolf, Okla.

Dave worked many years as a bus driver for Justice Schools. He enjoyed watching OU sports and grandchildren playing ball.

His heart was with the Lord, and he enjoyed going to church and participating in church activities.

Dave was a member of the Tom

Palmer band of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and Cedar Creek Baptist Church, where he was a deacon.

He is preceded in death by parents Edmond and Janie (Harjo) Bowlegs, wife Martha and four brothers.

Survivors include children Joe Bowlegs and Iwana Bowlegs, both of Wewoka; nine grandchildren; and host of other relatives and friends.

Bennie Tiger, Gary Lena, Micco Cummings, Anthony Fixico, Henson Lena, Junior Tiger and Tony Hernandez served as pallbearers.

Honorary pallbearers included T.J. Mack, Kevin Mack, Felix Mack, Felix Gouge, Wayne Holata and Jeff Fixico.

John Crayton Harjo



Funeral services for John Crayton Harjo were held Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home in Wewoka with Rev. Frank Moppin officiating. Interment followed at the Harjo Family Cemetery near Konawa. Services were under the direction of Stout-Phillips Funeral Home in Wewoka.

John Crayton Harjo passed away Sunday, March 24, 2013 at a local hospital in Ada. He was 95.

John was born January 7, 1918 to parents Tima Harjo and Ida Burgess in Wolf, Okla.

He graduated from Chilocco High School near Newkirk, Okla. and went on to earn a B.A. from East Central University in Ada in 1942.

John worked as a building inspector for the City of Los Angeles for many years.

He moved back to Ada from California in 2005.

John was of the Baptist faith and enjoyed square dancing, casinos and baseball.

He was a member of the Tusekia Harjo band of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

John is preceded in death by daughter Marlena Harjo; parents Tima and Ida Harjo; brothers Floyd L. Harjo, A.B. Harjo and Matthew Harjo; and sisters Flora Wood, Ruby Pennoke, Helen Bailey and Annie Harjo.

Survivors include sister Bobbie Jones of Wolf, Okla.

Pallbearers included Greg Chilcoat, Leonard Harjo, T.A. Larney, Donny Earp, Sterling Wood and Mitchell Price.

seminole people

ESTE SEMINOLE

Tiger becomes first tribal member elected to American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame

KANSAS CITY – Tribal member Kenneth O. “John” Tiger was inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony held Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the Loretto Academy in Kansas City, Mo.

Tiger was an all-state performer at Seminole High School. He is a member of the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Hall of Fame.

“I am extremely honored to be selected to join such a prestigious group of world-class athletes,” said Tiger. “And the fact that I’m being presented into the group by a man I greatly respect and admire, (former NEO head football coach) Chuck Bowman, makes it just that much more special to me.”

“Another thing that makes this almost overwhelming is the fact that I am the first Seminole tribal member inducted into this organization,” added Tiger. “The overall experience is quite humbling.”

Following his graduation from Seminole High School in 1958, Tiger started two years on both offense and defense for the NEO Golden Norsemen, and coach S.A.



photograph submitted

Kenneth O. “John” Tiger (center) stands with the Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard at Tiger’s American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, held Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the Loretto Academy in Kansas City, Mo.

“Red” Robertson. As a starting freshman on NEO’s offensive line, Tiger helped lead the Golden Norsemen to the 1958 Junior College Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

The Golden Norsemen won the Oklahoma Junior College Conference Championship, finishing the season with a perfect 9-0 record and a No. 1 ranking by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

In addition to his successful football sea-

son, Tiger set an OJCC record of 172 feet in the javelin throw for NEO’s track and field team. The record stood for one year.

During his 1959 sophomore season, Tiger started at both offensive guard and linebacker for the NJCAA National Champion Golden Norsemen. NEO went on to defeat Texarkana College, 10-7, in the Texarkana Booster Club Bowl, finishing the season 9-1-1.

Tiger was named Outstanding Defensive Player of the Texarkana Booster Club Bowl and earned second team NJCAA All-American honors. He also received the NEO Carl Rigney athletic academic award.

Tiger transferred to the University of Kansas in 1959. Following a red-shirt season, he started as an offensive guard and defensive tackle during his junior year in 1961.

As a junior, Tiger helped lead the Kansas Jayhawks, a member of the Big Eight Conference, to a 33-7 victory over Rice University in the inaugural Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston, Tex.

Tiger served as co-captain of the Jayhawks as a senior, and was selected as an honorable mention on the All-Big Eight team. He received the Mike Getto Award as KU Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Tiger went on to serve as a graduate assistant with the Jayhawks in 1963, where he coached the interior offensive and defensive lines. He also did scouting for KU.

While serving as a graduate assistant, Tiger also helped coach spring practice at the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kan.

“While helping out at Haskell, I had the privilege of coaching James Billy, future chief of the Florida Seminole Indian Tribe,” Tiger said. “He was an outstanding quarterback with a lot of raw, natural talent.”

Returning to his alma mater, NEO, as a member of the coaching staff, Tiger helped guide the Golden Norsemen to NJCAA national titles in 1967 and 1969.

Tiger served as assistant football coach for Haskell Institute from 1970 to 1974, before returning to Seminole, where he worked with the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma before entering private business

photograph submitted

Kenneth O. “John” Tiger at the University of Kansas. Tiger played offensive guard and defensive tackle for the Jayhawks during the early 1960s and served as team co-captain during his senior season.



from 1975 to 1985.

In 1985, Tiger accepted the athletic director position at Commerce High School in Commerce, Okla. From 1985 to 1988, he served as head football coach, leading the Commerce Tigers to the Class 2A playoffs in 1987.

Tiger would continue his coaching career in Texas, serving as offensive line coach for Terrell High School from 1988 to 1994. He helped guide Terrell to district titles and the Class 4A state playoffs in 1992 and 1993.

After one year as a defensive coach at Wills Point High School in Wills Point, Tex., Tiger left coaching to serve 12 years as an administrator for Wills Point schools.

The American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame was founded in 1972 by Robert L. Bennett (Oneida) and Louis R. Bruce (Mohawk/Souix), both former commissioners of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Billy Mills, Olympic gold medal winner, was appointed the first Hall of Fame coordinator, and Matt Wacona served as the first executive director. George LaVatta was elected chairman of the board of directors.

The purpose of the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame is to recognize the great athletes of American Indian heritage and to serve as a model for Indian youth to strive for their own personal and career greatness. Every athlete honored by induction into the hall of heroes is selected on the basis of an outstanding, colorful, exciting and action punctuated record of performance at the national or international level.

For 34 years, the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame has been housed in the Student Union, and presently in the Sports Center, at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. Many thousands of Indian students, adults and non-Indians have visited the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame and marveled at the achievements of Jim Thorpe, Billy Mills, Sonny Sixkiller, John Levi and Moses Yellow Horse, as well as 90 others.

Admission to the museum is free.

For more information about the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame, please visit www.americanindianathleticchallof-fame.com.

Monty Franks, sports reporter for the Miami News-Record in Miami, Okla., made significant contributions to this report.

land

continued from front page

and large oil companies on allotted land. Natural resources have been exploited without adequate government supervision or regulation.

Underwood discussed the historic loss of land holdings and natural resources at the Feb. 16 community meeting.

“It’s not a pretty picture,” he said. “Every time the Seminoles had a treaty with the federal government, it just was not a good thing. We lost land every time.”

“Oil wells have been pumping oil out of Seminole Indian Country – they’ve been doing it since 1926,” he added. “The tribe has received nothing. Not even a dollar.”

“Results of this study show that there are a little over 11,000 acres that belong to tribal members, and hence, are part of the jurisdiction of the Seminole Nation,” Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo told attendees at the Feb. 16 meeting. “What I ask you to consider, as you look at the results of this project and also look at where we need to go beyond this project, is that we make [11,000 acres] the bottom line – that we will go no further in the loss of Indian Country here in the Seminole Nation.”

The BCR’s recommendations for phase two of the land research project include the identification of all mineral rights of Seminole tribal members throughout the Seminole Nation.

“In many cases, a tribal member may have sold the surface rights but maintained the minerals,” Underwood said.

Researchers will look closely to identify such tracts, as they have the potential to

provide future revenue.

In an effort to better serve and protect tribal members and their land holdings, the BCR also proposes the establishment of a tribal realty office through a 638 contract redirecting the BIA realty budget to tribal control.

Additionally, land acquisition, the BCR suggests, must become an integral part in the tribe’s short and long range planning.

“Land acquisition is very important, because in order to meet the needs of our membership, we have to grow in many different ways that would provide new, improved services for the Seminole people,” Underwood said. “The only way to do that is if we acquire more land, and naturally that translates into more economic development, which translates into more revenue, which translates into more services.”

“I know Chief Harjo has several ideas,” he added. “He can use the information for several programs and their planning. It’s going to help the tribe grow.”

Phase two will provide for a complete physical survey, using GPS technology, of all of Seminole Indian Country, including tribal cemeteries, old ceremonial sites, tribal housing projects, railroads, traditional churches and reserved allotments for Seminole schools and churches.

“A lot of churches were given to us at original patent time,” said Atkinson. “They are original half-acre sites that aren’t maintained because nobody knows where they are. If they’re tribal land, we need to know where they are so we can maintain and continue to preserve them.”

Phase two will also seek to identify family cemeteries.

“Many of these lands that lose their restricted status, or are sold and no longer belong to Indians, the gravesites are no

longer protected,” explained Underwood.

“We know of instances where new landowners, non-Indian landowners, will have no connections to those sites. A lot of times they’ll just bulldoze over that surface,” he added. “They’ll move away the headstones and whatever else is there and let their cattle feed over it.”

While NAGPRA provisions protect gravesites on federal land, graves located on private property are a separate issue. Underwood hopes that by accurately identifying tribal gravesites, the Nation will be able to prevent any further degradation.

“The tribe has to take an active role in protecting those sites,” he said.

“I’m really looking forward to phase two, to go even more in-depth in preserving our history,” said researcher Pamela Jackson.

“The hardest part is over,” added Atkinson. “Staying in the courthouse day after day – that was the most monotonous part of it.”

“I think that’s why we’re all looking forward to phase two – because we’re going to be in the field, and there are different aspects this time around.”

“I think phase two is going to be a little more interesting. [The researchers] have learned all you can learn about retrieving information from the courthouse,” said Underwood. “Going out and actually physically inspecting cultural sites, ceremonial sites and cemeteries and talking to people in the community, that’s going to be a whole new experience for our researchers.”

BCR’s research team will initiate phase two of the Seminole Indian Country Land Research Project once the General Council approves its budget. The budget will be discussed for the first time on the Council floor on April 27.

Those involved with the project are cog-

nizant of the need to continue the momentum of the research and phase one findings.

“We’re halfway there,” said BCR Attorney Tim Brown. “We don’t want to lose any jurisdiction just because we didn’t finish the project.”

“We know, pretty much, what [Seminole Indian Country] is,” added Chief Harjo. “It’s up to us to turn it around and make it something – that when we leave this earth, Seminole Indian Country will cover far more than 11,000 acres.”

Seminole Nation Attorney General Jennifer McBee echoed such sentiments.

“I don’t want to see this tribe lose any more land,” she said. “There are a lot of areas that you can grow the regulatory base, and you can expand, not only the control of authority, but your influence in the community.”

“You can affect the future generations to come with the ability to breathe clean air and have a great place to be Seminole,” she concluded.

table 1: statistics by township

| Township | Acreage | Tracts |
|-----------|-------------|--------|
| Wolf | 3,321.8076 | 121 |
| Redmond | 1,733.9035 | 63 |
| Konawa | 1,970.0000 | 92 |
| Brown | 1,960.9805 | 80 |
| Miller | 1,785.0000 | 81 |
| Econtucka | 1,248.0000 | 55 |
| Lincoln | 828.5583 | 32 |
| Totals | 12,849.8113 | 524 |

according to county assessor records

Winning
IS
Contagious

Come
Catch It !





TRADING POST
CASINO
A SEMINOLE NATION ENTERPRISE

Rivermist Casino Hwy 56 & Hwy 99



SEMINOLE NATION
CASINO

Seminole Nation Casino I-40 exit 200 & Hwy 99



River Mist
CASINO
A SEMINOLE NATION ENTERPRISE

Wewoka Trading Post 36625 Hwy 270